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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 006608
O 261232Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9897
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 09033

EXDIS

BLANTYRE FOR ASST SEC EASUM ONLY

DEPT PASS DOD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EAID, CG
SUBJECT: U.S. ZAIRIAN MILITARY RELATIONS

REF: STATE 230304 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING RECENT VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM TO KINSHASA, WE HAD HELPFUL DISCUSSION OF GOZ PAPER CONCERNING ARMS PURCHASES. RESTRICTED COUNTRY TEAM HAS NOW CONSIDERED MATTER FURTHER ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EASUM'S AND MY CONVERSATION WITH MOBUTU IN LUBUMBASHI.

2. AS RESULT WE DRAW FOLLOWING THREE CONCLUSIONS: (1) OUR ORIGINAL THOUGHT THAT WE MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THREAT ANALYSIS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ILL-CONSIDERED. WE RECOGNIZE GOZ PROPOSAL FOR JOINT STUDY SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED IN DIRECTION OF AMERICAN ADVISORY EFFORT; (2) WE BELIEVE WASHINGTON EXAGGERATED SIZE, SCOPE, AND DURATION OF CONTEMPLATED EFFORT. IN THIS REGARD EASUM'S REFERENCES TO SAUDI ARABIA WERE REVEALING. WE NEVER CONTEMPLATED ANYTHING ON SCALE OF SAUDI ARABIAN EXERCISE AND, INDEED, SUCH EFFORT HERE WOULD BE HIGHLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE; (3) ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THEORIES
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WHICH MORE OR LESS EXPLAIN SURPRISING JIGS AND JOGS

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TAKEN SINCE MY ARRIVAL BY GOZ ON MILITARY QUESTIONS,
WE ATTACHE LESS IMPORTANCE TO OUR THEORIES THAN TO
INDICATION FROM PRESIDENT THAT HE THINKS DISCUSSIONS
ARE GOING WELL. THUS, IN LIGHT LUBUMBASHI MEETING
TIME PRESSURE SEEMS SOMEWHAT LESS, WHICH IS NOT TO SAY
THAT WE SHOULD NOT PROMPTLY GET BACK TO GENERAL MOLONGYA
PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO GOZ PROPOSAL.

3. WE NOW PROPOSE THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR JOINT
EFFORT BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD MAKE EXPLICITLY CLEAR
US INPUTS PURELY ADVISORY AND THAT REPORT ITSELF
WOULD BE GOZ RESPONSIBILITY. IN FRAMEWORK OF AGREED
TERMS OF REFERENCE, WHICH GOZ MIGHT ALSO WISH TO BE
SOMETHING SHORT OF THOSE OUTLINED IN PARA 5 REF A,
TEAM WOULD DISCUSS MOLONGYA PAPER AND SUCH ADDITIONAL
ASSESSMENTS AS GOZ AGREED TO PRODUCE. WE CAN
CONFIDENTLY ANTICIPATE THAT THESE ASSESSMENTS WOULD BE AT
ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION AS THE MOLONGYA PAPER,
I.E., FAIRLY RUDIMENTARY. US TEAM WOULD BE INSTRUCTED
TO SHOW RESPONSIVENESS WHILE AVOIDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
SENSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THREATS AND CAPABILITIES. WE
BELIEVE MUCH COULD BE DONE TO FOCUS ZAIRIAN THINKING
THROUGH DIALOGUE IN WHICH TEAM WOULD ASK QUESTIONS
CONCERNING PERCEIVED THREAT, MILITARY CAPABILITIES,
AND FUNDING POSSIBILITIES, WHILE ANSWERING ZAIRIAN
QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIGN, CAPABILITIES, COST AND
AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS. WE COULD
REASONABLY EXPECT THAT ZAIRIAN PLANS FOR MILITARY
MODERNIZATION WOULD BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM TEAM'S
LOW KEY EFFORTS TO INFUSE RATIONALITY, COST
CONSICIOUSNESS AND AWARENESS TRADE OFFS. NEEDLESS TO SAY,
REDEFINING OF JOINT STUDY CONCEPT WOULD NOT RPT NOT
PREVENT TEAM-ZAMISH-EMBASSY FROM DEVELOPING A SEPARATE
US ASSESSMENT CONCERNING ELEMENTS IN PARA 5 KINSHASA 8691
FOR POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH MOBUTU.

4. TEAM. WHAT WE (AND DOUBTLESS THE ZAIRIANS) CON-
TEMPLATE IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE RECENT
US EXERCISE WITH SAUDI ARABIA. A SMALL TEAM OF SIX
OR SEVEN OFFICERS (SEE ZAMISH SEPTEL) WOULD COME TO
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ZAIRE FOR RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD (30-45 DAYS).

5. TIMING. WE ENVISAGE FAIRLY SYSTEMATIC DIALOGUE.
IN NOVEMBER WE SHOULD INDICATE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE
TO SEND STUDY MISSION SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON TERMS
OF REFERENCE AND DEFINING DIFFERENT US-GOZ ROLES.
TEAM WOULD ARRIVE ASAP THEREAFTER AND GOZ
PROCUREMENT DECISIONS (OTHER THAN FOR TOP PRIORITY

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C-130'S AND M-16'S) WOULD FOLLOW COMPLETION GOZ STUDY.

6. AS RESULT EASUM'S OCTOBER 22 TALK WITH MOBUTU AND PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, WE BELIEVE TOP LEVELS GOZ WELL AWARE OF CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND FMS CREDIT LIMITATIONS BUT WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DRIVE POINT HOME.

7. ADVISE.
HINTON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

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